

Municipal Court

Mission. The mission of Municipal Court is to serve the citizens of the community by upholding the law in an unbiased and impartial manner facilitating the interests of justice and the needs of all citizens in a thorough and fair manner.

Overview. Municipal Court is organized into two areas. The Court Clerk's Office is responsible for processing transactions related to court and traffic records. The Probation Office assists judges in defendant evaluation and prisoner and probationer monitoring.

Three traditional courtrooms are operated by Municipal Court. In addition, a Video Court is used to arraign prisoners from the county jail via a video connection. Hearings for traffic violations are held in an Administrative Traffic Court, and environmental cases are heard in a rotating Neighborhood Court. Specialized dockets have been established for driving under the influence, criminal, domestic violence and traffic.

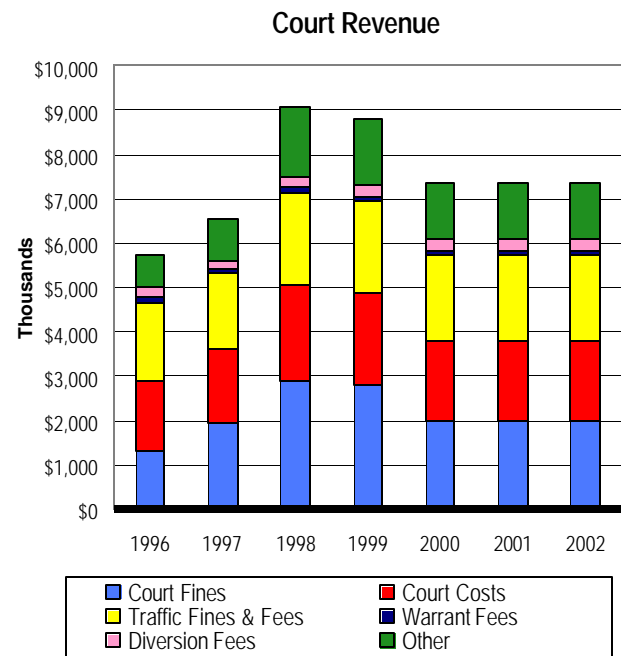


Municipal Court operates five courtrooms in City Hall, with environmental court held periodically at neighborhood Police substations.

Finance and Operations. In 1995, the Public Safety Initiative was launched. It augmented Court staff resources by adding a total of nine full time positions. Staffing includes an additional Administrative Traffic Court (two positions), staff for the Neighborhood Court (three positions), two additional staff to improve customer service, a position to enhance collections activity, and a fingerprint clerk, to comply with state requirements regarding fingerprinting those convicted of class A and B misdemeanors. Eight of the Public Safety Initiative positions are in the Court Clerk's budget, and one is in Probation office.

Municipal Court established a drug court in 1995 and remains the only operating drug court in Kansas. The court operates under the philosophy that a drug court team can provide better opportunity for long-term changes in drug users. The goal is to break the recurring cycle of repeat offenders. Funding to implement a drug court software program is included in the 2001 budget. The software will consolidate defendants' information, providing the drug court team one centralized access point.

Additional automation changes in 2000 and 2001 include the replacement of the Public Safety System and the implementation of the interactive voice response system. The Integrated Public Safety System offers a centralized information system to be shared and utilized by Police, Prosecution, and Court. The new system will utilize bar code and drivers' license scanning, imaging and Internet. The new interactive voice response system will improve the dissemination of court information and will be implemented upon completion of the new public safety system.

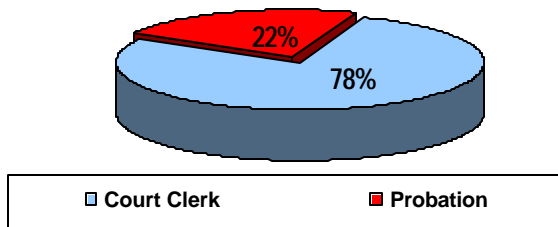


The City Council approved remodeling of City Hall to enhance court facilities. The project began in early 2000, with projected completion by year-end. The remodel will expedite access to the court rooms and court clerk for the 1,300 citizens who visit daily.

Municipal Court is responsible for collecting a variety of court imposed fines, fees and penalties. Revenues include court fines, traffic fines & fees, diversion fees; court cost and warrant fees, and other revenues. The revenues partially offset the cost of adjudication, prosecution and enforcement efforts of Municipal Court, the Law Department and the Police Department.

The 2001 Municipal Court budget is \$4.4 million. The Clerk's office is allocated 78% of the budget (\$3.4 million) to fund operations. Operations includes docket clerks and judges, who staff court rooms; clerks who assist citizens either on the telephone or in-person in the Municipal Court office; file clerks that assist in general docket preparation and file processing; and other positions that support the general administration of the Court.

2001 Court Budget Distribution



Eight probation officers and seven support staff are funded in the Probation Office. Staff began 2000 with a caseload of 17,500 and are expected to initiate 3,800 new cases and complete 3,500 cases by the end of the year. In addition, the staff will provide judges with approximately 3,325 pre-sentence evaluations for defendants.

Selected Service Level Measures - Probation				
	1998	1999	2000	2001
Pre-sentence evaluations	2,534	2,738	3,325	3,325
New probation cases	3,882	3,231	3,800	4,000
Probation cases closed	3,355	3,094	3,500	3,800

Funding is included for the Wichita Intervention Program (WIP), which provides alcohol education and intervention for eligible first time defendants who plead guilty to drunk driving. The program

couples intervention with the state mandated 48 hours of incarceration and is funded by a \$200 program fee charged to defendants.

A contract for public defenders to serve indigent defendants is also funded. The costs for indigent defense are offset by a \$4 per case assessment and co-payments from the defendants. The public defenders handled 7,500 cases in 1999 and will defend an estimated 8,800 cases in 2000.

Municipal Court managed the Warrant Office from 1991 until 2000 when the function was moved back to the Police Department. The move shifted 11 full time positions and 4 part time staff from Court to Police. Court retained four Service Officers that were added in 1999, funded with Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. The Service Officers focus on prisoner transportation duties and video arraignment, enabling Warrant Officers to focus on the apprehension of individuals with Municipal warrants.

In addition to General Fund resources, Court is funded partially with the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and Alcohol and Drug Safety and Abuse Program (ADSAP) funds. ADSAP funds support three positions: a docket clerk, clerk II and probation officer.

In 1999, the Municipal Court initiated a Work Program. Defendants are offered the opportunity to either pay their fines or participate in community service work activities to "work-off" the fine at a rate of \$5 per hour.

Municipal Court Department Budget Summary

	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2000 Revised	2001 Adopted	2002 Approved
Personal Services	2,430,379	2,917,880	2,809,070	2,868,670	2,997,760
Contractual Services	1,393,358	1,537,210	1,502,840	1,521,420	1,478,150
Commodities	55,533	97,580	91,970	79,180	80,940
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	30,000	0	0	0
Total Municipal Court Expenditures	3,879,270	4,582,670	4,403,880	4,469,270	4,556,850
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	69,700	142,030	157,300	169,300	169,300
ADSAP Fund	106,295	107,750	165,665	165,665	165,665
General Fund	3,879,270	4,582,670	4,403,880	4,469,270	4,556,850
Total Municipal Court Resources	4,055,265	4,832,450	4,726,845	4,804,235	4,891,815
Position Summary					
Total full-time	70	71	70	70	70
Total part-time	37	33	31	31	31
Total FTE	78.5	74.8	72.25	72.25	72.25